REMARKS

Claims 3-6 and 8-9 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-9 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action, claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has merely recited the claim language and stated that this language is indefinite. In order to properly address the Examiner's rejection, Applicant respectfully requests clarification of the Examiner's reasons for rejecting claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Landrum (U.S. Patent No. 4,715,020). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

In one embodiment of the present invention, illustrated in Figure 2, Applicant describes deploying seismic sources V_1, V_2, V_3, and V_4 at source points 48, 50, 52, and 54, respectively. The seismic sources V_1, V_2, V_3, and V_4 are simultaneously actuated and then data is acquired by seismic sensors 40. The seismic sources V_1, V_2, V_3, and V_4 are then redeployed at source points 50, 52, 54, and 56, respectively. Thus, with regard to independent claim 1, Applicant claims a method of seismic surveying using a plurality of vibratory seismic sources that includes redeploying said seismic sources so that at least one of them is positioned at a source point previously occupied by another of them.

In contrast, Landrum describes a method of conducting a plurality ("n") of seismic surveys simultaneously at substantially the same location using a signal phase shift. The method disclosed by Landrum describes advancing a selected number of vibratory sources in alignment

at laterally spaced locations. A first transmission is made at an initial position 12, and the vibratory sources may then be advanced, in alignment at laterally spaced locations, to the next position 12, which may be about 10 meters from the initial position, and a second transmission made with the signal phase shift advanced. The vibrators are then successively advanced, in alignment at laterally spaced locations, and the signal phases of selectively shifted until a sequence is completed. See Landrum, col. 5, ll. 45-65 and Figure 1. However, Landrum does not describe or suggest redeploying the seismic sources so that at least one of them is positioned at a source point previously occupied by another of them. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Landrum does not anticipate independent claim 1, or any claims depending therefrom, and requests that the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

For the aforementioned reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (713) 934-4052 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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